

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held on Thursday, 16 September, 2010 at 6.00 p.m. at Civic Offices, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors D.G. Allen, R. Aveley, D.R. Chaplin, N.A. Dugmore, R.E. Groom and K.S. Sahota
Mr F. Beasland and Mr A. Selvaratnam (Chairman) (Independent Members)
Councillors D. Edwards, R. Wickson and R. Williams (Parish Council representatives)

ST-9 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 17 June 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

ST-10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor H. Rhodes

ST-11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

ST-12 APPOINTMENT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE INDEPENDENT MEMBERS AND PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

The Head of Governance & Monitoring Officer presented a report which updated Members on the recent exercises to recruit for vacancies on the Committee for an Independent Member and for a Parish representative.

Following the completion of two terms of office by Mr Andy Simpson in May 2010, an advertisement was placed in the Shropshire Star seeking interest in the vacant Independent Member post. Unfortunately, no applications had been received. In addition, Mr Barry Bayley had indicated his intention to resign as an Independent member of the Committee, so a further vacancy would arise. The Committee were asked whether they wished to make a further attempt to recruit a new Independent member (or members), bearing in mind that the latest information from Standards for England was that the current standards regime and arrangements would continue until at least November 2011. One option was to approach the Independent Members on the Combined Fire Authority's Standards Committee to ascertain whether they could assist this Committee in undertaking its statutory responsibility to consider Code of Conduct complaints.

In terms of the vacancy for a Parish Council representative on the Committee, four applicants were invited to interview. One candidate subsequently

withdrew, and an interview panel consisting of the Chairman, Cllr Dugmore, Cllr Wickson and the Monitoring Officer met the three remaining candidates on 26th August 2010. The Panel's preferred candidate was Councillor Pat Fairclough, a member of Wellington Town Council, and the Committee were recommended to appoint Councillor Fairclough for the role of Parish representative. Some biographical details provided by Cllr Fairclough were detailed in the report.

The Head of Governance & Monitoring Officer reported that for the purposes of clarification regarding the membership of sub-committees of the Standards Committee, the recommendation for appointing Councillor Fairclough should be amended to include her appointment to all sub-committees. An additional recommendation was also suggested in order to formalise the membership of all sub-committees as consisting of all members of the Committee.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that Councillor Pat Fairclough be appointed as a Parish Representative on the Standards Committee, and on all sub-committees of the Committee, for a fixed term of four years;**
- (b) that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to approach the Independent Members of the Combined Fire Authority's Standards Committee regarding any assistance they could provide to this Committee in relation to the consideration of Code of Conduct complaints;**
- (c) that all members of the Standards Committee be confirmed as members of all sub-committees of the Committee.**

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The meeting ended at 6.14 pm

Chairman:

Date: